



ALEXANDRIA:

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 19, 1861.

CONGRESS.—The Senate, yesterday, reconsidered the motion by which Mr. Clark's resolutions were substituted for those of Mr. Crittenden, and made the subject a special order for Monday next. The Kansas bill was, also, debated and at an early hour the body went into executive session. The House concluded the debate upon the Army Appropriation bill, and passed that measure.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—The proceedings of the Senate, on Thursday, were not important. The resolutions of the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, with the accompanying report submitted by Mr. Paxton, the subject submitted by Mr. August (on the same subject); a communication from the Executive, embracing some coercion resolves of the Black Republican Legislature of New York, and a report by Mr. Johnson from the Committee on Federal Relations, were laid on the table. The House of Delegates passed the preamble and resolutions presented by the Joint Committee on State and Federal Relations.

Rev. Duet, Breckinridge (uncle to the Vice-President, in a recent discourse, said: "We have seen constitutional government, both in its essence and in its form trampled under foot by the convention of South Carolina, and all the powers of sovereignty itself, both ordinary and extraordinary, assumed by it in such a manner that life liberty, and property have no more security in South Carolina than any where under Heaven where absolute despotism, or absolute anarchy prevails, except in the personal character of the gentleman who hold the power. We have seen that small community preparing to treat with foreign nations, and, if need be, introducing foreign armies into this country; heading in her career, she disdains all council, seems all to conquer, and treats all else, all recollection, all existing engagements and obligations, as if her ordinance of secession had not only denationalized that community, but had extinguished all its past existence."

All should not be abandoned as lost, says the National Intelligencer, because no party to this contest can succeed in procuring acquiescence to the whole schedule of Constitutional and legislative arrangements deemed by each adequate and necessary to effect a pacification of the sections on the question of slavery. The Richmond Whig says: "We have no doubt that the whole controversy between the North and South could be settled, satisfactorily and permanently, within ten days' time, if the people themselves could have a fair opportunity of acting on the subject. The miserable and selfish politicians of the land, having brought the present alarming trouble upon the country, alone stand in the way of an honorable and peaceful adjustment. Let the people rise in the might and majesty of their strength, and put down the politicians, and take their own affairs into their own hands."

Every effort now made to prevent further secession, by a satisfactory adjustment of difficulties, and by a magnanimous and honorable rendition of justice, and a return to the principles of the Constitution, is so much gained for the cause of a restoration of the Union as it was, and as it was intended to be by the illustrious patriots who established our government. The South only asks for right and justice—these obtained, up would go again, we believe, after a short interval, floating high in the breeze, the glorious old flag, without a star blotted out, or a star erased. Those who desire Disunion, *per se*—irrespective of justice being done or future guarantees given,—we believe, are in a minority in every State in the South, except South Carolina.

The Southern extremists and the Northern fanatics are exerting themselves to defeat every project that is brought before Congress for the purpose of harmonizing our national troubles. Like the editors of the New York Tribune and the Charleston Mercury, they are opposed to all compromise, and stand ready to plunge the country into civil war if that result can by any possibility be accomplished. Washington is not the place to look at, for hope of a restoration of the Union, and peace and harmony. The people, and especially the people of the Border States must be the pacifiers.

Whatever may be the final issue of the present complications, all who wish to save or restore the Union must always hold in affectionate remembrance the name of J. J. Crittenden, of Kentucky. The sight of his now time-worn and care-worn face, is enough to show the deep anxiety that oppresses him, and the labor he undergoes in the cause of peacefully upholding the government and union of his country. Honor to a noble patriot and statesman!

The New York Tribune states that Lincoln is opposed to making any "concessions." So much the worse for him, if not for the country. On the other hand, the New York Herald says that Mr. Seward spoke the sentiments of Mr. Lincoln, and that the latter is not impracticable.

We are indebted to the Delegate from this county for copies of State Documents. Also, to various members of Congress, for public documents, speeches, &c.

A meeting will be held on Monday next, (Court-day) at Culpeper C. H. for the purpose of nominating a candidate to represent Culpeper in the State Convention.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

J. R. Hamilton, who resigned the position of First Lieutenant in the United States Navy, to enter the service of South Carolina, publishes in the Mercury an address to the naval officers of Southern birth, assuring them that the reduction of Fort Sumter, too long delayed from motives of peace and humanity, is necessary to the honor and safety of South Carolina, and that in this work the blood of her children will mingle with that of the sons of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, now anxiously waiting for the call.

The people of Allegheny county, Md., without distinction of party, assembled in Convention on Thursday, at Cumberland, to the number of from three to four thousand. Great enthusiasm prevailed, the universal sentiment being in favor of the preservation of the Union. A series of resolutions were also unanimously adopted endorsing Major Anderson, favoring the Crittenden resolutions, or any other measures that may tend to the preservation of the Union.

The New York papers mention a rumor that James E. Kerrigan, member of Congress elect from that city, is to be arrested on a charge of treason, under the recent charge of Judge Smalley. The charge of treason grows out of the allegation that he is secretly organizing a military company to go to South Carolina, from which State Mr. K. returned a few days ago, after a brief visit.

The Charlottesville Review says:—Executive Secretary Floyd addressed the citizens of Charlottesville, in the Hall, on Wednesday night. He was followed by Senator Brown, of Miss., who distinctly announced that he was not for reconstruction. He desired the South always to remain a separate and independent Government. These gentlemen were subsequently entertained at a supper by their political friends.

It is now said that the President has taken his position in regard to the affairs in Charleston, and has deliberately made up his mind as to the course he intends to pursue, and under no circumstance will he surrender Fort Sumter to the authorities of South Carolina. Unless the surrender is made, Col. Hayne says oceans of blood will be spilt.

Kellogg, Roberts, and Stobbs, charged with robbing Adams' Express, on the New Haven Railroad, of \$10,000, in April last, by throwing from the train, and subsequently plundering an iron safe in which the money was contained, were on Tuesday last convicted of the crime at Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Capt. W. B. Shubrick, late of the United States navy, died at Pendleton, S. C., on Monday last. He entered the service June 20th, 1806, and resigned his commission recently to take service under his native State. He had seen much service, having received several dangerous wounds in the face and head in battle.

Rev. Dr. Whittingham, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Maryland, has written a letter to Gov. Hicks, resigning him in his course. Originally designed only as a private expression of sympathy and support, Bishop Whittingham has consented to its public use at the solicitation of Governor Hicks.

The New York Courier and Etats Unis, in a recent number, contains a letter from an old officer of the French army, in which the writer predicts that, on a dissolution of the Union, the present Emperor of the French will make an attempt to recover the Louisiana country ceded by the first Napoleon.

The Savannah Republican announces that in consequence of the obstructions in Charleston harbor, the steamers formerly plying between that port and New York will hereafter go to Savannah, and have their cargoes transported to Charleston, over the Charleston and Savannah Railroad.

They have set a good example at Bath, Me., says the Boston Post of the 16th. Two hundred and fifty have voted in favor of a repeal of the Personal Liberty bills, to ninety-seven in the negative. At least one half of those in the affirmative were Republicans.

Floods have occurred in the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, interrupting telegraphic communications south of Nashville. There are no means of ascertaining the damage done at present, or how long the interruption will continue.

It is certain that Governor Curtin of Pa., will send an Embassy to Maryland. Mr. Robert Palmer, Speaker of the Senate, and Gideon J. Ball, of Erie, from the House, have been selected for the mission. They are to visit Governor Hicks.

Secession is at a stand still in Alabama. The members of the Convention from the Northern part of the State have refused to sign the Ordinance of Secession unless the period for its going into operation is postponed until the 4th of March.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives has unanimously passed a series of resolutions approving the course of Major Anderson and Governor Hicks, and pledging to Maryland the fellowship and support of Pennsylvania.

A Northern exchange says that the editor of the Charleston Mercury, who writes its fierce disunion articles, is one Gordon, a native of Massachusetts, who has been in the South but two years.

The schooners Allen B. Terry, of New Haven, and Pauline, of Newbern, N. C., have been seized for violations of the Virginia inspection laws. They are in charge of the city sergeant at Norfolk.

At Mobile, Jan. 15, the collector refused to honor the federal drafts until orders have been received from the Governor of Alabama.

Advices from Texas show that Sam Houston is making a gallant fight for the Union.

General Scott's Views.

Views suggested by the imminent danger (October 29, 1860) of a disruption of the Union by the secession of one or more of the Southern States.

To save time the right of secession may be conceded and instantly balanced by the concurrent right, on the part of the Federal Government, against an inferior State or States, to re-establish by force, if necessary, its former continuity of territory.—[Paley's Moral and Political Philosophy, last chapter.]

But break this glorious Union by whatever line or lines that political madness may contrive, and there would be no hope of reuniting the fragments, except by the union and despatch of the sword. To effect such result the intestine wars of our Mexican neighbors would, in comparison with ours, sink into mere child's play.

A smaller evil would be to allow the fragments of the great Republic to form themselves into new Confederacies, probably four. All the lines of demarcation between the new Unions cannot be accurately drawn in advance, but many of them approximately may. Thus, looking to natural boundaries and commercial affinities, some of the following frontiers, after many waverings and conflicts, might perhaps become acknowledged and fixed:

1. The Potomac river and the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic. 2. From Maryland, above the mouth of the Allegheny (perhaps the Blue Ridge) range of mountains, to some point in the coast of Florida. 3. The line from say the head of the Potomac to the west or northwest, which it will be most difficult to settle. 4. The crest of the Rocky Mountains.

The Southeast Confederacy would, in all human probability, in less than five years after the rupture, find itself bounded by the first and second lines indicated above, the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, with its capital at say Columbia, South Carolina. The country between the second, third, and fourth of those lines would, beyond a doubt, in about the same time, constitute another Confederacy, with its capital at probably Alton or Quincy, Illinois. The boundaries of the Pacific Union are the most definite of all, and the remaining States would constitute the Northeast Confederacy, with its capital at Albany.

It, at the first thought, will be considered strange that seven Slaveholding States and parts of Virginia and Florida should be placed (above) in a new Confederacy with Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, &c. But, when the overwhelming weight of the great Northwest is taken in connexion with the laws of trade, contiguity of territory, and the comparative indifference to freeness of doctrine on the part of Western Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri, it is evident that, but for the fact of slavery, the moral force, would be needed to embrace them, and I have omitted the temptation of the unwashed public lands, which would fall entire to this Confederacy—an appanage (well husbanded) sufficient for many generations. As to Missouri, Arkansas, and Mississippi, they would not stand out a month. Louisiana would coalesce without much solicitation, and Alabama, with West Florida, would be conquered the first winter, from the absolute need of Pensacola for a naval depot.

If I might presume to address the South, and particularly dear Virginia—being "a little here and there to the minor border"—I would feel secure and their labor less profitable under the new order of things than under the old? Could you employ profitably two hundred slaves in all Nebraska, or five hundred in all New Mexico? The right, then, to take them thither would be a barren right. And is it not wise to "rather bear the ills we have

"Than fly to others that we know not of?" The Declaration of Independence proclaims and consecrates the same maxim. "Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes." And Paley, too, lays down as a fundamental maxim of statesmanship, "never to pursue national honor as distinct from national interest," but adds:—"This rule acknowledges that it is often necessary to assert the honor of a nation for the sake of its interests."

The excitement that threatens secession is caused by the near prospect of a Republican election to the Presidency. From a sense of propriety, as a soldier, I have taken no part in the pending canvass, and, as always heretofore, mean to stay away from the political arena, and, however, I will not be misled by the cry of "Union, Union, Union," which is but a cry for the sake of the Union, and not for the sake of the Republic.

From a knowledge of our Southern population, it is my solemn conviction that there is some danger of an early act of rashness preliminary to secession, viz: the seizure of some or all of the following ports: Forts Jackson and St. Philip, in the Mississippi; New Orleans, both without and within; Forts Pickens and Monroe, Pensacola harbor, with an insufficient garrison for one; Fort Pickens, below Savannah, without a garrison; Forts Moultrie and Sumter, Charleston harbor, the former with an insufficient garrison, and the latter without any; and Fort Monroe, Hampton roads, without a sufficient garrison. In my opinion all these works should be immediately so garrisoned as to make any attempt to take any one of them, by surprise or *coupe main*, ridiculous.

With the army faithful to its allegiance and the navy probably equally so, and with a Federal Executive, for the next twelve months, of firmness and moderation, which the country has a right to expect—*and*—and—there is a great reason to hope that the danger of secession may be made to pass away without one conflict of arms, one execution, or one arrest for treason.

In the mean time it is suggested that exports should remain as free as at present; all duties, however, on imports, and on the coastwise trade, of such articles as would be needed for the national debt, invalid pensions, &c., and only articles contraband of war be refused admittance. But, even this refusal would be unnecessary, as the foregoing views eschew the idea of invading a seceded quarter.

OCTOBER 29, 1860. WINFIELD SCOTT.

"In fact, on board of a ship, the great aim and object of the plan was to gain time—either for the purpose of awaiting the arrival of reinforcements, or to avoid expedient measures of consideration on the part of the North, and the subsidence of angry feelings in the seceded quarter."

Let General Scott's respects to the Secretary of War to be sent.

That report of the "Views," &c., was dispatched to the President yesterday, in great haste, but with great care, and in time for the mail. General Scott would be happy if the latter could be substituted for the "Views," only apply to a case of secession that makes a case in the present Union. The fallacy of such a supposition may be made to pass away without one conflict of arms, one execution, or one arrest for treason.

The Secretary's most obedient servant, W. S.

All the rumors of mutiny or disaffection among Anderson's command are fabricated and without the least color of truth. Lieutenants Hall and Talbot, who are just from Fort Sumter, speak in the highest terms of the devotion and affection of the garrison to their commander, and the expressed willingness and desire of every man to share his fate, whatever it may be.

Letter from Loudoun County.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

LEESBURG, VA., Jan. 16.—On comparing the register of births and deaths with the census returns, I find there has been great inaccuracy in one or the other of them, or else a very large emigration from our county, in ten years past. The registry commenced with 1853, and for the two years prior to that time, and for the year 1860, I estimate them:

	Free.	Slave.	Deaths.	Slave.
1851	400	200	200	100 est.
1852	410	210	210	100 est.
1853	410	210	210	100 est.
1854	410	210	210	110
1855	398	198	174	85
1856	464	152	159	75
1857	461	177	162	69
1858	392	174	158	76
1859	348	173	129	65
1860	330	180	120	70 est.

Total. 4103 1837 1745 858

The excess of the births of free persons (white and colored) over their deaths is 2308, and of those of slaves over their deaths is 970.

The population of the county of Loudoun in 1860 is, free, 16,307; slave, 5,506; in 1850 it was, free, 15,158; slave, 5,273; increase of free blacks, 1,149, or 7 1/2 per cent; increase of slaves, 232 or 4 1/2 per cent.

Were we isolated, the increase would have been in free persons 2,308, or 15 1/2 per cent, and in slaves 970, or 19 per cent.

The number of free persons who have left our county in ten years, is 1,219, or nearly 122 each year, and the number of slaves who have gone is 747, or nearly 75 each year.

I suppose that not over 67 slaves have escaped in that time, and putting them, they being generally men and women, at \$1,000, will show a loss in ten years of fugitive slaves of \$67,000, or \$6,700 each year.

"Hine illic lachrymæ," hence these complaints so justly made against the personal liberty bills of the Northern States.

If any county in Pennsylvania should lose annually 670 horses, worth \$100 each, there would be a hue and cry against any State even incidentally protecting horse thieves, such as the world never heard of.

I understand that John A. Rogers, John A. Carter, Gen. Asa Rogers and Col. Lorman Chancellor, will be candidates for the Convention from this county. These are all conservative men, and the majority for referring the work of the Convention to the people will be very large.

Our people are for the Union, as long as they can possibly think fair protection will be given to their rights in it; and if these are refused, then they are for a plunge into the dark abyss of disunion, even risking all its unknown and inconceivable horrors.

Mr. Seward's speech is considered by many as giving evidence of a disposition to do justice, and we have "done all the good we could" with the hope that "all the good we could" will be accomplished in some way. But it is not a manly sacrifice, such as the "majestic Clay" would have made. Yours, ALBUQUERQUE.

Letter from Washington.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The Senate to-day, reconsidered by a vote of 27 to 24, its action of a few days ago, adopting the resolutions of Mr. Clark, of New Hampshire, instead of those of Mr. Crittenden. This brings the whole subject up again before the body, and we sincerely trust that a better spirit in connection with it will be manifested.

It was rumored that Senator Wilson, with whom it is understood Senators Dixon, Anthony, and other New England leaders concur, has signified his willingness to vote for the Crittenden amendment as a final resort to the settlement of our pending troubles, and that he and the Senators from Rhode Island and Connecticut had made a similar record, now intend turning their attention from local politics to the great interests of the country. They will support the plan offered by the patriotic old statesman from Kentucky.

We are informed, and we are not surprised, that Gov. Fitzpatrick, Senator from Alabama, disapproves the hasty action of his State—for notwithstanding telegraphic dispatches to the contrary—the ordinance of secession of Alabama has been signed by the members of the State Convention. No other public man has more earnestly and sincerely condemned the course of those who seek to destroy the Union for the sake of its destruction, than the Governor of Alabama, and he is appreciated and deservedly trusted.

Information has been received here that the South Carolina authorities have entirely changed their course towards Major Anderson and his command. Fresh provisions, free intercourse with the city, and their mails, are no longer withheld from them. Many bids have been offered for the five million loan. They will be opened on Saturday. The bulk of the loan will probably be taken at eight per cent.

The Democratic State Convention of Illinois met at Springfield, on Wednesday, and the resolutions of the State being reported. The proceedings were harmonious, and a series of resolutions were adopted by an almost unanimous vote. These resolutions declare among other things—that it is the prompting of patriotism and the dictate of wisdom to make an earnest effort to save the Union by conciliation and concession; therefore, in a spirit of compromise, we are willing to accept the amendments to the Constitution proposed in the United States Senate by Senator Douglas, Senator Crittenden, the Border State proposition, or any other where, by harmony and concession, peace and satisfaction can be secured between the people of the different sections of the country.

We deny the constitutional right of any State to secede from the Union; and are equally opposed to nullification at the North and secession at the South. That in the opinion of this Convention the employment of military force by the Federal Government to coerce the submission of seceding States will inevitably plunge the country in civil war, and entirely extinguish all hope of the settlement of the fearful issue now pending before the country.

RETURN OF THE BOOKS.—This war steamer arrived in Hampton Roads last Monday night, coming to anchor near Fort Monroe. Many stories respecting her visit in the neighborhood of Charleston have been already made up and circulated, none of them, we take it, authoritative. In fact we are able to say positively, that her mission from the outset was peaceful. The object of the Administration was not to destroy the Southern States, but to restore to the Union at this time, though it is thought in some quarters that reinforcement, in the shape of troops, provisions, &c., will be sent to Fort Sumter from Old Point by the Government vessel named above. What grounds there are for such a supposition is beyond our ken.—[Portsmouth Transcript, 16th.]

The Charleston correspondent of the New York Tribune says:—"A body of black men, about fifty in number, offered their services this morning, to the Government, in a petition addressed to a member of the House of Representatives, on the single condition that protection be given to their wives and children."

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Thursday, bills were reported for the relief of John W. G. Smith, of Rockingham county; and a bill to protect the interests of the Commonwealth and other holders of inland improvement companies in this State from injurious competition.

Mr. August, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill legalizing the purchase of arms by the counties of the State, and authorizing levies by the Courts for that purpose.

The rules having been suspended, the bill was passed to its third reading, when Mr. Thomas, of Fairfax, offered an amendment as an independent section, providing that the counties and corporations accepting the provisions of the bill shall preserve the arms received, and return them when applied for by the proper authority.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Executive, as follows:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, RICHMOND, JANUARY 17, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates: I have received a communication from His Excellency, Edwin D. Morgan, Governor of New York, enclosing a preamble and resolutions adopted by the Legislature of that State.

The first resolution declares "that the Legislature of New York" tender to the President of the United States "whatever aid, in men and money, he may require to enable him to enforce the laws and uphold the authority of the Federal Government."

This I understand to be a declaration of their readiness and willingness to sacrifice the men and money of that State, in the effort to enforce the laws of the Union, and to submit to Federal authority. The Governor and Legislature of New York ought to know that the sword has never reconciled differences of opinion. Military coercion can never perpetuate the existence of this Union. When the affections of the people are withdrawn from the Government, an attempt at coercion can have no other effect than to exasperate, the people threatened to be coerced. Blood, shed in civil strife, can only enrich the soil that most speedily produces "a harvest of woe."

I cannot suppose, from what has occurred, that the President of the United States would be inclined to adopt a policy which he must see and know could not fail to result in bloodshed. I am satisfied that prudence and patriotism would induce him to reject all counsels and measures, which would be calculated to bring about so great a calamity. I have no idea, therefore, that he will accept the tender which has been so inopportunistically and so ostentatiously paraded before the country.

Nothing that has occurred in the progress of this controversy has been more timely and less excusable. If the Governor and the Legislature of New York desire to preserve the Union, a tender of men and money under the promptings of passion, prejudice, and excitement, will not produce the result. At a time when the horizon is overcast with clouds, when darkness and gloom are gathering close around us, and when we behold nothing but danger on all sides, some little wisdom, discretion and prudence is expected from the representatives of the people. They ought at least to refrain from adding fuel to the flame that burns with utmost intensity now. It would have been far better that these resolutions had never been adopted.

In 1798 and 1799 the action of Virginia was marked by courage, dignity and an earnest desire to preserve the Union, without prejudice to the rights of the States. No feeling of resentment towards the other States was manifested by those great men in that day of peril and trial. No effort was made to produce estrangement between the different sections of the country, or to inflame popular prejudice. Their example is worthy of imitation when events are hurrying us on so rapidly into the dangers of civil strife.

Nothing but a sense of duty has induced me to transmit the preamble and resolutions to the two Houses of the General Assembly. The threat which is conveyed can inspire no terror in freemen. JOHN LITCHER, Secretary, Message and accompanying documents were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The Joint Committee on Federal Relations made their report. (See proceedings of the House of Delegates.)

Mr. Claiborne announced that he would move on Friday, that the resolutions from the Legislature of New York be returned to that body.

A resolution was offered, and a committee appointed to bring in a bill for the relief of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia and its branches.

Mr. Thomas presented the proceedings of a meeting of citizens, in relation to the condition of State and Federal affairs, and asking the Legislature to devise some plan by which the Union may be preserved. Referred.

In the House of Delegates, Mr. Barbour, from the Joint Committee on Federal Relations made the following report, which, on his motion, was laid on the table and ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That in the opinion of the General Assembly of Virginia, the propositions embraced in the resolutions presented to the Senate of the United States by the Hon. J. J. Crittenden, constitute the basis of such an adjustment of the pending controversy which will preserve the State of this Confederacy, as would be accepted by the people of this Commonwealth.

Resolved, That one Commissioner to the Government of the United States, and one Commissioner to the State of Virginia, be appointed by the General Assembly, with instructions respectfully to request the President of the United States and the authorities of such States to agree to abstain pending the proceedings contemplated by the action of this General Assembly from any and all acts calculated to produce a collision of arms between the States and the Government of the United States.

Mr. Tomlin offered a substitute for the foregoing, and for the report of the Joint Committee on the State and Federal Relations, which, together with Mr. Barbour's resolutions, were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The General Assembly of Virginia, that unless the unhappy controversy, which now divides the States of this confederacy, shall be satisfactorily adjusted, a dissolution of the Union is inevitable and the improvement companies in this State from injurious competition.

Mr. August, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill legalizing the purchase of arms by the counties of the State, and authorizing levies by the Courts for that purpose.

The rules having been suspended, the bill was passed to its third reading, when Mr. Thomas, of Fairfax, offered an amendment as an independent section, providing that the counties and corporations accepting the provisions of the bill shall preserve the arms received, and return them when applied for by the proper authority.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Executive, as follows:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, RICHMOND, JANUARY 17, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates: I have received a communication from His Excellency, Edwin D. Morgan, Governor of New York, enclosing a preamble and resolutions adopted by the Legislature of that State.

The first resolution declares "that the Legislature of New York" tender to the President of the United States "whatever aid, in men and money, he may require to enable him to enforce the laws and uphold the authority of the Federal Government."

This I understand to be a declaration of their readiness and willingness to sacrifice the men and money of that State, in the effort to enforce the laws of the Union, and to submit to Federal authority. The Governor and Legislature of New York ought to know that the sword has never reconciled differences of opinion. Military coercion can never perpetuate the existence of this Union. When the affections of the people are withdrawn from the Government, an attempt at coercion can have no other effect than to exasperate, the people threatened to be coerced. Blood, shed in civil strife, can only enrich the soil that most speedily produces "a harvest of woe."

I cannot suppose, from what has occurred, that the President of the United States would be inclined to adopt a policy which he must see and know could not fail to result in bloodshed. I am satisfied that prudence and patriotism would induce him to reject all counsels and measures, which would be calculated to bring about so great a calamity. I have no idea, therefore, that he will accept the tender which has been so inopportunistically and so ostentatiously paraded before the country.

Nothing that has occurred in the progress of this controversy has been more timely and less excusable. If the Governor and the Legislature of New York desire to preserve the Union, a tender of men and money under the promptings of passion, prejudice, and excitement, will not produce the result. At a time when the horizon is overcast with clouds, when darkness and gloom are gathering close around us, and when we behold nothing but danger on all sides, some little wisdom, discretion and prudence is expected from the representatives of the people. They ought at least to refrain from adding fuel to the flame that burns with utmost intensity now. It would have been far better that these resolutions had never been adopted.

In 1798 and 1799 the action of Virginia was marked by courage, dignity and an earnest desire to preserve the Union, without prejudice to the rights of the States. No feeling of resentment towards the other States was manifested by those great men in that day of peril and trial. No effort was made to produce estrangement between the different sections of the country, or to inflame popular prejudice. Their example is worthy of imitation when events are hurrying us on so rapidly into the dangers of civil strife.

Nothing but a sense of duty has induced me to transmit the preamble and resolutions to the two Houses of the General Assembly. The threat which is conveyed can inspire no terror in freemen. JOHN LITCHER, Secretary, Message and accompanying documents were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The Joint Committee on Federal Relations made their report. (See proceedings of the House of Delegates.)

Mr. Claiborne announced that he would move on Friday, that the resolutions from the Legislature of New York be returned to that body.

A resolution was offered, and a committee appointed to bring in a bill for the relief of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia and its branches.

Mr. Thomas presented the proceedings of a meeting of citizens, in relation to the condition of State and Federal affairs, and asking the Legislature to devise some plan by which the Union may be preserved. Referred.

In the House of Delegates, Mr. Barbour, from the Joint Committee on Federal Relations made the following report, which, on his motion, was laid on the table and ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That in the opinion of the General Assembly of Virginia, the propositions embraced in the resolutions presented to the Senate of the United States by the Hon. J. J. Crittenden, constitute the basis of such an adjustment of the pending controversy which will preserve the State of this Confederacy, as would be accepted by the people of this Commonwealth.

Resolved, That one Commissioner to the Government of the United States, and one Commissioner to the State of Virginia, be appointed by the General Assembly, with instructions respectfully to request the President of the United States and the authorities of such States to agree to abstain pending the proceedings contemplated by the